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Letter dated 27 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding the attack on the Kalma Camp for Internally Displaced Persons in Southern Darfur (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elfatih Erwa
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Republic of the Sudan
Ministry of Internal Affairs

Statement on the Darfur Rebel Attack on Kalma Camp

In a grave development involving an outrageous attack by rebel elements on the camp for internally displaced persons at Kalma, in Southern Darfur state, a group of rebel forces entered surreptitiously and carried out an attack on the police post, then fled. The attack resulted in the death of two police officers, namely Muhammad Abdullah and Mu'tazz Ahmad Mansur, and the wounding of others.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs would like to clarify the following facts:

1. This act of aggression embodies the spirit of irresponsibility and lack of respect of the rebels towards their commitments under the Ndjamena Ceasefire Agreement and other commitments by which they are bound. The fact that the attack was carried out against police forces within the camp for internally displaced persons clearly points up the atrocity of the act, directly targeting as it did the security of the citizens and the police forces charged with safeguarding and protecting them;

2. This attack on the Kalma Camp reminds us that the rebels have made it their concern since the beginning of their sabotage activities to create a dangerous security gap by targeting security forces in Darfur. Indeed, 68 police divisions have been destroyed and 408 of their members have been killed. This has played a key role in depriving citizens of security and safety and has led to subsequent complications that have hampered the efforts of the State to protect and ensure the safety and security of its citizens;

3. This most recent attack comes amid continued and urgent efforts by the State to comply with its commitments under its agreement with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Darfur action plan. The State's endeavours in this regard have included sending in 10,243 highly trained and qualified members of the police provided with all the necessary equipment, gear and supplies to ensure conditions of security, protection and stability for all citizens in Darfur;

4. The deployment of the police in Darfur has been the object of tendentious campaigns on the part of the rebels aimed at raising doubts and accusations, due to the fact that they realize that strengthening the organs for the maintenance of security and law in Darfur and ensuring the protection of citizens will interfere with their strategy of sabotage. Now, however, we observe that it has come to the direct targeting of and aggression against the police and the assassination of police officers. There have been a series of similar events, involving a total of 40 acts of aggression against the police security since the signing of the ceasefire on 8 April 2004. These include 18 such acts in Northern Darfur state, committed in Taweisha,

Al-La`ayt Jar al-Nayy, Amhush, Burush, Tawilah, Khor Tawilah, Urshi, Umm Badr, Gallab, Sayyah, Hashabah, Utash, Khor al-Nahb, Bobay, Sajli wa-Maddu; 15 in Southern Darfur state, committed in Sirriyyah, Sa'iba, Iftadu, Shi`iriyah, Umm Dafasu, Shurtat al-Sikkah al-Hadid (railway police), Direis, Kileil, Abu Salamah, Mrishing, Niteifa, Labadu, Ashamah, Direisayah, Gharigah, Kalma; and 7 in Western Darfur, in the areas of Sireif, Dohod, Bir Jimmeizah, Gibayshah, Tandalti, Kulbus and Golo;

5. Rebel aggression is not limited to attacks on the police, but have also included attacks on the African observer forces, as pointed out by the Nigerian head of the monitoring team, Brigadier-General Festus Okonkwo, in his report to the meeting of the joint Ceasefire Commission held in Abuja on 3 September 2004 and chaired by Chadian Counsellor Alami;

6. In view of this situation, the Ministry of Internal Affairs calls upon the international community to shoulder its responsibility to induce the rebels to refrain from such extremely grave acts of aggression, which are intended to condemn to failure the efforts to gain control of the security situation in Darfur. Indeed, security involves an integrated system and there is no way to provide it and make it effective unless all parties fully assume their responsibilities;

7. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, for its part, will shoulder its full responsibility and strive to employ every means to contain all threats to security and stability in Darfur. It will also make every effort, based on its fundamental responsibilities and the commitments it has undertaken internationally to provide protection for citizens and displaced persons, to deal resolutely with anyone who allows himself to be tempted to target their security and safety.